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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES – RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

September 26, 2023

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear California State Coastal Conservancy Grant Review Team:

I am writing in support of Marin County Parks' application for the California State Coastal Conservancy Grant funding for construction of the *Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project*. Bolinas Lagoon is one of only four Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, a key component of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, an Audubon Important Bird Area, and part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve. It is one of the most ecologically important places within Marin County. The California State Coastal Conservancy grant funding will ensure critical funding to construct this critical climate resilience, restoration, and fish habitat project.

The project is part of a larger vision for the north end of Bolinas Lagoon that emerged from a strong community partnership. The Project responds to the impending need to improve the estuary's resilience to sea level rise, reduces hazardous flooding, and improves roadway safety. The northern end of Bolinas Lagoon's creeks and marshes – and the multitude of wildlife that depends upon them – have been impacted by the roads, undersized culverts, and channelization that disconnect creek and floodplain, block water and sediment movement, and prevent wetland migration with sea level rise. The Project will protect this site's unique ecological values by removing these barriers and restoring geomorphic and hydrologic process that will improve ecological function. This project will also enhance and restore freshwater and estuarine wetlands and riparian habitat for migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic species.

The project team has completed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration as required by CEQA and is preparing to start construction in 2024 pending project approval. Marin County Parks' resiliency and adaptation planning efforts are critical components of the management and long-term sustainability of our coastal ecosystem and surrounding communities. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this worthy funding request. Please contact my district director, Jenny Callaway, at 415-258-9657 should you need further information.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

SAN RAFAEL
999 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 290
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901
PHONE: (415) 258-9657
FAX: (415) 258-9913

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California State Senate

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

MAJORITY LEADER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

September 26, 2023



Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Marin County Parks' Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project

Dear Chair Bosco:

I am writing in support of Marin County Parks' application for the California State Coastal Conservancy Grant funding for construction of the *Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project*. The California State Coastal Conservancy grant will bring funding to construct this critical climate resilience, restoration, and fish habitat project.

The project is part of a larger vision for the north end of Bolinas Lagoon that emerged from a strong community partnership. It will address the impending need to improve the estuary's resilience to sea level rise, reduce hazardous flooding, and improve roadway safety. The northern end of Bolinas Lagoon's creeks and marshes have been impacted by the roads, undersized culverts, and channelization that prevent wetland migration with sea level rise. The Project will protect this site's unique ecological values by removing these barriers and restoring geomorphic and hydrologic process that will improve ecological function. This project will also enhance and restore freshwater and estuarine wetlands and riparian habitat for migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic species.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If our office can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at 916-651-4002.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Mike McGuire".

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator



September 28th, 2023

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Marin County Parks' Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project

Dear California State Coastal Conservancy Grant Review Team:

I am writing in support of Marin County Parks' application for the California State Coastal Conservancy Grant funding for construction of the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project. Bolinas Lagoon is one of only four Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, a key component of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, an Audubon Important Bird Area, and part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve. It is one of the most ecologically important places within Marin County. The California State Coastal Conservancy grant funding will ensure critical funding to construct this critical climate resilience, restoration, and fish habitat project is.

The project is part of a larger vision for the north end of Bolinas Lagoon that emerged from a strong community partnership. The Project responds to the impending need to improve the estuary's resilience to sea level rise, reduces hazardous flooding, and improves roadway safety. The northern end of Bolinas Lagoon's creeks and marshes – and the multitude of wildlife that depends upon them – have been impacted by the roads, undersized culverts, and channelization that disconnect creek and floodplain, block water and sediment movement, and prevent wetland migration with sea level rise. The Project will protect this site's unique ecological values by removing these barriers and restoring geomorphic and hydrologic process that will improve ecological function. This project will also enhance and restore freshwater and estuarine wetlands and riparian habitat for migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic species.

The project team has completed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration as required by CEQA and is preparing to start construction in 2024 pending project approval. Marin County Parks' resiliency and adaptation planning efforts are critical component of the management and long-term sustainability of our coastal ecosystem and surrounding communities. Thank you for your consideration, and should you have any questions, please reach out to my office at (415) 479-4920.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Connolly", is written over the printed name.

DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, 12th District
DC:al



September 29, 2023

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Marin County Parks' proposal to the State Coast Conservancy for funding to support the *Bolinas Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project*.

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of Marin County Parks' grant application for the *Bolinas Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project* (Project). The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Parks Conservancy) strongly supports the proposed Project, which responds to the impending need to improve the estuary's resilience to sea level rise, reduces hazardous flooding, improves roadway safety, and supports restoration of native plant habitat within the project area. The northern end of Bolinas Lagoon's creeks and marshes—and the multitudes of wildlife that depend upon them—has been impacted by the roads, undersized culverts, and channelization that disconnect creek and floodplain, block water and sediment movement, and prevent wetland migration with sea level rise. The Project will protect this site's unique ecological values by removing these barriers and restoring geomorphic and hydrologic processes that will improve ecological function. We recognize the tremendous potential of the project to enhance and restore freshwater and estuarine wetlands and riparian habitat for migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic species.

Marin County Parks is part of the One Tam collaborative, an innovative partnership that also includes the Marin Municipal Water District, National Park Service, California State Parks, and non-profit support partner the Parks Conservancy. This Project is a One Tam priority, and the Parks Conservancy is working closely with Marin County Parks and other One Tam agencies to ensure efforts and resources are coordinated to develop and implement the Project, and to ensure that this Project's goals and strategy fits in with larger regional goals. In addition, Parks Conservancy staff are supporting design development, compliance, and implementation of the Project's vegetation management goals.

The Parks Conservancy has comprehensive experience in delivery of successful habitat restoration projects of similar scale to the Bolinas Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project, including Crissy Field in San Francisco, Muir Beach-Lower Redwood Creek in Marin County, and Mori Point in San Mateo County. Through the One Tam collaborative, the Parks Conservancy will provide technical support to the overall Project including leading implementation of the Project's vegetation management plan. Support from the State Coastal Conservancy is critical to Marin County Parks and the Parks Conservancy delivering a successful project that will improve resiliency for the north end of Bolinas Lagoon. We whole-heartedly support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trudy Garber", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Trudy Garber
Director, Park Projects and Design
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

991 Marine Dr., The Presidio
San Francisco, CA 94129

September 28, 2023

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Sent Via Email:

RE: Support for and In-Kind Contribution to Marin County Parks' (MCP) proposal for the Bolinas Wye Wetlands Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary), I am pleased to support Marin County Parks' (MCP) proposal for the *Bolinas Wye Wetlands Restoration Project*. As the lead agency responsible for project implementation, Marin County works closely with the sanctuary, whose jurisdiction includes the waters of Bolinas Lagoon, to protect this internationally recognized estuary. The sanctuary works in close partnership with Marin County including supporting a joint working group that developed the 2008 *Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project: Recommendations for Restoration and Management*, a guidance document that prioritizes long-term climate adaptation planning for the lagoon. MCP's project stems directly from this community-supported document (*Recommendations 4a and 4b*) and provides several benefits that strengthen lagoon function and resilience including: 1) improved creek and floodplain function; 2) transitional and wetland habitat enhancement; 3) special status species protections, and; 4) sea level rise and storm surge adaptation.

The sanctuary urges funding to support MCP's proposal for the following reasons:

- Project goals and outcomes complement additional restoration initiatives, such as the Greater Farallones Association-led *Bolinas Lagoon South End Habitat Adaptation and Resilience Project*. Together these projects are designed and implemented in partnership with the lagoon's managing agencies to achieve a shared vision of a healthy, resilient Bolinas Lagoon ecosystem.
- Project goals address the sanctuary mission derived from the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which prioritizes protection of ecosystem function, habitat, and biological communities by addressing management issues and anticipating future challenges in order to maintain a healthy marine environment.
- Benefits resulting from this project correspond with sanctuary management plan performance measures within several programmatic action plans: 1) climate change; 2) resource protection, and; 3) conservation science.

This project furthers our mutual goals of long-term, nature-based solutions for Bolinas Lagoon, and we believe MCP's experienced project team will ensure a community-supported final design that incorporates critical climate resilience measures. The sanctuary commits in-kind staff support to facilitate permitting and advise on final designs. Funding for the project is critical for the long-term protection of resources and ecosystem services at Bolinas Lagoon, and I strongly urge the State Coastal Conservancy to fund this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Brown". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" and last name "Brown" clearly distinguishable.

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent
Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries



**GREATER
FARALLONES
ASSOCIATION**

September 28, 2023

Doug Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Letter of Support for the Proposed Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

On behalf of the Greater Farallones Association (GFA), I am writing to express strong support for Marin County Parks' (MCP) proposed Bolinas Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project (Project). GFA is the non-profit partner of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (Sanctuaries) and our shared mission is to ensure sanctuary ecosystems remain healthy, globally significant ocean environments. Over the past decade, GFA has engaged the Bolinas, Stinson Beach, and Seadrift communities in the planning and implementation of restoration projects in Bolinas Lagoon. In the process, we have developed a strong sense of the communities' enthusiasm for restoring and protecting the Lagoon.

GFA has worked in close partnership with [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#) and Marin County Open Space District to implement a holistic ecosystem approach to restoration of the Lagoon with a shared vision of sustainability and resilience. The [2008 Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project: Recommendations for Restoration and Management \(Locally Preferred Plan\)](#), developed through a working group of scientists, local stakeholders, environmental groups, and state and federal agencies, guides these efforts. Together, GFA and its partners prioritize and implement projects from the Locally Preferred Plan to protect the lagoon's current resources and strengthen its resilience and adaptability to future changes.

MCP's Wye Project stems directly from this community-supported document and provides several benefits that strengthen lagoon function and resilience including: 1) improved creek and floodplain function; 2) transitional and wetland habitat enhancement; 3) special status species protections, and; 4) sea level rise and storm surge adaptation.

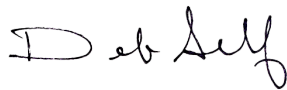
We commend MCP's efforts to take action to reduce potentially significant environmental impacts to a less than significant level, and to restore hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological processes in the Bolinas Wye wetlands to improve aquatic, wetland, and upland habitats. We feel the Project

complements our own restoration work, including the Bolinas Lagoon South End Living Shorelines Project, and furthers our mutual goals of long-term solutions for creating and sustaining resilience for the Bolinas Lagoon ecosystem.

We are confident MCP's experienced project team will ensure a community-supported final design that protects and enhances essential wildlife habitat while incorporating critical climate resilience measures.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and for the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Self". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Self
Executive Director
Greater Farallones Association
www.Farallones.org